

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A payment distribution method for distributing ~~payment to a plurality of product/service providers of a predetermined user fee paid by a user for using their products/services by means of, during a predetermined billing period, products and services that are supplied by the providers to the user through a user network access device on that provides access to an electronic network over a predetermined billing period, the method comprising the steps of:~~
 - (1)setting up a system server and running a system program on the server;
 - (2)installing and running a client program on ~~said user's~~ the user network access device;
 - (3)recording ~~usage data of~~ indicating usage of ~~said products/services~~ the products and services of each provider by ~~said~~ the user, the ~~usage~~ data comprising at least one of ~~the following~~ usage elements: ~~selected from the group consisting of~~
 - size of files accessed,
 - number of files accessed,
 - time spent on ~~providers'~~ sites ~~each provider site,~~
 - duration of download processes, and
 - number of download transmissions, ~~each provider having associated~~ with it and its products and services at least one of the usage elements;
 - (4)calculating a payment distribution to ~~those~~ the providers that have provided ~~products/services~~ products and services to ~~said~~ the user ~~over~~ during the billing period by dividing the ~~user's~~ user fee into shares among ~~them~~ generally ~~the providers~~ according to the ~~usage~~ data and corresponding ~~usage~~ element ~~elements~~ associated with

each provider, in relation to the ~~total usage element~~ data and usage elements associated with all providers; and

~~(5) Distributing calculated payments~~ distributing the shares of the user fee to said the providers according to the payment distribution calculated.

2. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~step (3) recording usage data~~ comprises recording the usage data on ~~said the user~~ network access device, ~~if said when the user uses said products/services~~ products and services directly from a provider, bypassing the system server.

3. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~step (3) comprising recording usage data~~ comprises recording the usage data on the system server, ~~if said when the user uses said products/services the~~ products and services via the system server.

4. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein in step (3) including~~

~~recording the usage data is recorded on either at least one or both~~ of the system server and the user network access device, and

~~step (3) includes consolidating the usage data recorded on the system server and the user network access device to generate total usage data for calculation in step (4) calculating the payment distribution.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein in step (3)~~

~~including recording the usage data is recorded~~ on both the system server and the user network access device, ~~and~~

~~consolidating the usage data is consolidated by using the user network access device, and~~

~~in step (4) calculating the payment distribution is calculated by using the user network access device.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein in step (3) including~~

~~recording the usage data is recorded on the user network access device, and~~

~~in step (4) calculating the payment distribution is calculated by using the user network access device.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein in step (3) including~~

~~recording the usage data is recorded on both the system server and the user network access device, and~~

~~consolidating the usage data is consolidated by using the system server, and~~

~~in step (4) calculating the payment distribution is calculated by using the system server.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~shares distributed payments sum up to~~ substantially to the user's fee.

9. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein in step (4) including calculating the payment distribution is calculated using the follow formula:~~

$$P_i = \left(\frac{x_i}{X} \right) f_0$$

where

$$\sum_{alli} \frac{x_i}{X} = 1$$

f_0 = Predetermined user fee paid by user

P_i = Payment Share for distribution to provider i

x_i = Usage element ~~of for~~ use by user ~~for~~ of provider i

X = Usage element ~~of for~~ use by user ~~for~~ of all providers

10. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the formula ~~is generalized to~~ for calculating the payment distribution is:

$$P_i = \left(w_1 \frac{x_{i,1}}{X_1} + w_2 \frac{x_{i,2}}{X_2} + \dots + w_j \frac{x_{i,j}}{X_j} \right) f_0$$

~~Where where~~

$$\sum_{allj} w_j = 1, \text{ and } \sum_{alli} \frac{x_{i,j}}{X_j} = 1$$

$x_{i,1}$ and X_1 = size of files accessed from provider i and all providers,
respectively

$x_{i,2}$ and X_2 = number of files accessed from provider i and all providers,
respectively

$x_{i,3}$ and X_3 = time spent on sites of provider i and all providers, respectively

$x_{i,4}$ and X_4 = duration of download processes from provider i and all
providers, respectively

$x_{i,5}$ and X_5 = number of download transmissions from provider i and all
providers, respectively

w_j = ~~weighing~~weighting factor ranging from 0 to 1, inclusive.

11. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein applied to a plurality of said users are involved, with step (3) wherein recording usage data and step (4) taken for calculating a payment distribution is applied to each of them the users, and~~

~~step (4) calculating the payment distribution includes subsequently integrating the payment distributions calculated payments in relation to for all of the users.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 11, ~~wherein in step (4) including~~

~~integrating the payments calculated payments are integrated by using the system server, and~~

~~in step (5) distributing the payments are distributed by shares using the system server.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein in step (3) including consolidating the usage data is consolidated by using the user network access device during a predetermined interval following the billing period.~~

14. (Currently Amended)) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein applied to a plurality of said users are involved, with step (3) wherein~~

~~each of recording usage data and step (4) taken for calculating a payment distribution is applied to each of them the users, and~~

~~step (4) includes subsequently calculating the payment distribution includes transmitting the calculated payment distributions calculated from the user network access devices to the system server for integration thereby by the system server before taking step (5) distributing the shares.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 14, ~~wherein in step (4) including transmitting the calculated payment distributions are transmitted calculated from the user network access devices to the system server over during a predetermined interval following the billing period.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 15, ~~wherein in step (3) including consolidating the usage data is consolidated by using the user network access device during the same predetermined interval as that of step (4) following the billing period.~~

17. (Currently Amended)) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 6, ~~wherein applied to a plurality of said users are involved, with step (3) wherein~~

~~each of recording usage data and step (4) taken for calculating a payment distribution is applied to each of them the users, and~~

~~step (4) includes subsequently calculating the payment distribution includes transmitting the calculated payment distributions calculated from the user network access devices to the system server for integration thereby by the system server before taking step (5) distributing the shares.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 17, ~~wherein in step (4) including transmitting the calculated payment distributions are transmitted from the user network access devices to the system server over during a predetermined interval following the billing period.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~step (5) distributing the shares~~ includes neglecting ~~some distribution of said providers of the smallest shares in of the calculated payment distribution shares~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 19, wherein ~~step (5) distributing the shares~~ includes
setting a maximum number of providers per payment distribution,
~~arranging the providers in a descending order of their shares to neglect those with respect to the shares, and~~
~~neglecting providers in excess of lower in the descending order than the maximum number of providers.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 19, wherein ~~step (5) distributing the shares~~ includes setting a minimum ~~cut-off share percentage to neglect those of the user fee, and neglecting payments of shares to the providers of shares that are smaller than the cut-off minimum percentage.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, including ~~the following step, between step (2) installing and running a client program and step (3): (2A) recording usage data, registering each of said provider the providers and the user participating in the method and setting up establishing an individual account therefor for each provider and user.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 22, ~~being set up and operated wherein setting up the system server and running a system program on the server is controlled by a system operator and run registering each of the providers and the user and distributing the shares is provided by a business~~

~~operator who is only responsible for taking step (2A) and step (5) different from the system operator.~~